

ALLIES CAPTURE VILLEMONTAIRE, SWEEP PAST OULCHY-LE-CHATEAU AND CLOSE IN ON FERE-EN-TARDENOIS

First-Named Victory Makes Important Break in the German Defense Which Has Been Holding Up the Western Claw of the Allies' Trap

GERMANS LOSE PIVOT FOR RETREAT FURTHER SOUTH

The Americans Are Moving Up From the Southward and Threaten the Strong Section Which Has Fere-en-Tardenois As Its Center

(By Associated Press.)

Villemontaire, a little more than five miles south of Soissons, has been taken by the French and Americans, while, further south, they have captured Oulchy-le-Chateau and swept on to the eastward of the town.

Between the Ourcq and the Marne, the Americans are pressing hard against the enemy's lines and have taken the southern half of La Fere forest, which brings them up to about four miles directly south of the vital town of Fere-en-Tardenois, the center of the roads leading back out of the Marne salient and through which the German forces along the southwestern sectors of the line must retreat. Ris forest, further southeast toward the Marne, also is being emptied of the Germans.

The capture of Villemontaire and Oulchy-le-Chateau seems to show that General Mangin, while keeping up his pressure all along the German lines, is able to concentrate large forces at vital points, the loss of which is menacing to the Germans.

Villemontaire is on the Soissons-Chateau Thierry road. It is just to the southwest of the town of Buzancy, which has been reported unofficially to have been taken by the allies. Its capture marks a new step in the process of closing the mouth of the bag in which the Germans are struggling.

The fall of Oulchy-le-Chateau takes from the Germans the pivot upon which their retreat further south has been swinging. Its loss to the enemy, who defended it sternly, is a serious blow.

The French official statement says the allies have advanced eastward of this town, which should bring them to the vicinity of hill 150, which is the dominating height in that region and which would give the allies an observation point over long reaches of the Ourcq, as well as both banks of that river.

There is nothing known as to the British progress on the line from Gueux and Mery-Premy, west of Rheims. The reported rapid advance of the British there, however, would seem to suggest that there was plenty of power behind their thrust and that their progress should continue.

On the whole, the German retirement from the Marne salient appears to be going forward. This retirement is quite evident on the western side of the salient, but to the southwest of Rheims toward the Marne nothing has been reported as to an enemy withdrawal.

German attacks near Metz, in the Lys salient, and near Hebuterne, north of Albert, in both of which localities the British recently have advanced their lines, are reported from London. Both enemy onslaughts were repulsed.

It is announced officially from London that Japan has agreed to the American proposal to assist the Czech-Slovak armies in Siberia.

BRITISH DROVE OFF TWO GERMAN ATTACKS

One Was Launched on Positions Recently Taken By British Near Metz and Other Was in Hebuterne Sector.

London, July 26.—The Germans this morning launched a local attack against the positions recently taken by the British in the Metz sector of the Flanders front. The war office announces that the attack was repulsed after sharp fighting. Last night the Germans delivered an attack upon the new British positions in the Hebuterne sector, on the front between Albert and Arras. The enemy was driven off with severe losses, leaving prisoners in the hands of the British.

EXPECT STRONG DEFENSE.

Will Be Put Up By Crown Prince on Tardenois Plateau.

Paris, July 26.—The newspapers are much pleased over Thursday's successes by the allies and believe that the moment when the pocket dug by the Germans will become so reduced that the position will be intolerable is approaching nearer and nearer.

A majority of the military critics think the German crown prince will not reconcile himself with falling back to the line of the Vesle without giving a further defensive battle on the plateau of Tardenois in conjunction with offensive battle in the neighborhood regions. It is believed probable that the Germans also may strike simultaneously in Flanders. The critics are convinced,

WILL HATE AUSTRIA FOR ALL TIME

And Czechs Are Determined to Betray Her Whenever They Can, Said Czech Socialist in Austrian Lower House.

Amsterdam, July 26.—"The Czechs declare they will hate and fight Austria forever and, God willing, they will in the end destroy her completely because Austria embodies a century-old crime against the liberty of mankind," said Deputy Stransky, a Czech Socialist, in moving in the Austrian lower house an indictment of the ministers for their decree ordering the partition of Bohemia.

"The highest national duty of the Czechs is to harm Austria, wherever and whenever possible," continued Stransky. "This we owe to the Czech people and to our loyalty to the Bohemian crown, which loyalty can only be put in practice by betraying Austria. Therefore, we are determined to betray her whenever we can."

AUSTRIAN SOCIALISTS IN SHARP PROTEST

Because Austria Does Not Insist That Germany Come Down to Business and Fix War Aims.

Amsterdam, July 26.—Austrian Social Democrats have introduced an interpretation resolution in the lower house, asking that the government negotiate immediately with Germany with a view to jointly fixing war aims and peace terms and repeating Austrian readiness for peace without annexations and indemnities, according to a Vienna despatch to the Nieuwe Rotterdamse Courant. The Social Democrats assert that the Austro-Hungarian government does not act sharply enough against the military party of Germany which momentarily has the upper hand.

A VICTORY A DAY FOR FIFTEEN DAYS

Second Lieutenant Coffard of French Army Has Broken All Records for Aerial Fighting.

Paris, July 25.—(Havas).—Second Lieutenant Coffard, of the French army, has broken all records in aerial fighting, according to the newspapers. He has won fifteen aerial victories in fifteen days.

GERMANS REGAINED MERY AND HILL 204

But Allies Hold Vigny on the Eastern Side of Marne Salient—Allies Make Progress Elsewhere.

London, July 26.—On all sides of the Marne salient the allies are reported to day to be continuing to make progress, except on the heights behind Soissons. The German resistance to the French pressure has been very determined in this latter sector. The advances reported elsewhere are for the most part slight.

On the other side of the salient, just to the west of Rheims, the allies lost the town of Mery and Hill 204 to a German counter attack, but retained Vigny and the greater part of the line thereabouts looking toward Fismes.

The allies held Marfaux, Bouilly, St. Ephraime and Courton wood in this sector.

Between the Ourcq and Chateau Thierry the Franco-American line now shows an advance beyond the line of a week ago from six to eight miles.

UKRAINE ABANDONS BESSARABIA CLAIM

German-Made Peace Pact Is Shot Wide Open Through the Negotiation and Rumania Resumes Relations with Ukraine.

Paris, July 25.—The Ukrainian government has announced officially that it abandons its claim to Bessarabia, says a Bucharest dispatch to the German press transmitted by the Zurich correspondent of the Matin. As a result diplomatic relations between Rumania and the Ukraine have been resumed.

The peace treaty between the central powers and Rumania, ceded Bessarabia to Rumania in return for Dobruja and other territory. Most of the inhabitants are Rumanians. The Ukraine borders Bessarabia on the north and east.

GERMANS SEND NEW ARMY

To Reinforce Their Right Wing, Says a Paris Newspaper.

Paris, July 26.—The Germans have reinforced their right flank of the Soissons-Rheims pocket, says La Liberte, with a new army commanded by General Von Eben, which has been placed between the armies of General Von Hutier and General Von Boehm.

BALL PLAYER TOLD TO GO TO WORK

Or Otto Jacobs of Chicago Will Be Moved from Class 4 to Class 1—Is Married and Has Two Children.

Chicago, Ill., July 26.—Otto Jacobs, a catcher, the first Chicago league player affected by the war department's "work or fight" ruling, was notified by his local board to-day to obtain more useful employment or be moved from class four to class one. Jacobs is married and has a wife and two children.

AMERICANS SHELLING FOE

Their Heaviest Artillery Is Hurling Explosives Beyond Fere-en-Tardenois

ENEMY WITHDRAWING FROM SOUTH SECTOR

German Infantry Is Not in Evidence Northeast of Chateau Thierry

With the American Army on the Aisne-Marne front, July 26.—(By Associated Press).—8 a. m.—The Franco-American push northeast of Chateau Thierry has resolved itself into a battle of the woods, which abound in this region. The Germans are fighting a rear-guard action, with their artillery and machine guns, retiring gradually before the allied forces. The German infantry is not in evidence.

The indications early to-day were that the enemy was making preparations for a further withdrawal. He has been struggling to hold the northern half of the forest of Fere and of the forest of Ris, but the allies are making progress in the work of ousting him from the remainder of these woods.

The allies moved up their heaviest artillery to-day and were throwing shells into the German lines as far as Saponny (five and one-half miles northeast of Oulchy-le-Chateau) and beyond Fere-en-Tardenois (two miles southeast of Saponny). The districts to the south also were being peppered by allied shells.

The Germans have been using much "blue cross" or "sneezing" gas, but ineffectively. The poplar and oak forests of Fere and Ris are filled with underbrush and the allied forces are having a stiff job to get through them, but are continuing the push night and day. The German machine gunners and artillery are desperately contending for every inch of ground before giving it up.

This morning the battle in the woods still was in progress.

AMERICAN STRATEGY OUTWITTED ENEMY

Feining a Frontal Attack the Americans Crept Around and Captured Nest of Machine Guns Still Holding Out Near Epieds.

London, July 26.—American troops met and conquered the enemy in a tremendous combat in the region of Epieds and Trugny, says Reuter's correspondent with the American troops in France. German infantry which had been pushed back from the Marne was hurried forward to check the Franco-American thrust toward Fere-en-Tardenois from the southwest.

The Germans fought well and checked the advance for some 36 hours and three times wrested the village of Epieds from their determined American opponents. In the meantime, the village grew constantly smaller under the ceaseless bombardment from both sides and finally disappeared, not even a large pile of bricks being left behind.

When the village disappeared the Germans were in possession. The Americans, tired of the ceaseless ebb and flow of the fighting there, had taken the slopes on either flank and forced the Germans to make their final massed attack into the ruins of the village.

Meanwhile the allied guns had been brought up beyond the crest of the hill and as soon as the Germans took possession of the village they concentrated a terrific fire upon it until the place smoked with its own red dust as though afire. When the guns ceased firing there were no Germans left to capture or even to bury.

At the edge of the wood beyond Trugny, the correspondent adds, the German machine guns stationed 10 yards apart held up the advance a little longer. Making a feint frontal attack, however, the Americans crept Indian fashion around the flanks and captured all the guns. Afterward the pace of the advance quickened. The ground north of Epieds was taken and the line carried beyond Courpail.

SEVERAL PASSENGERS HURT.

When Metal Projection from Passing Engine Raked a Train.

New Haven, Conn., July 26.—Several passengers on the shore line express No. 20, of the New Haven railroad, were slightly hurt when a metal projection from a passing engine broke windows in the smoking and next two coaches of the train. One man went to the hospital to have glass fragments removed from his face, but the others hurt were attended by a surgeon at the station and continued on the train.

In a list of 19 persons treated for cuts and bruises, given out by the railroad officials, were the names of J. J. Ryan, T. P. Thornton, and Frank Gaffey, of New London.

HAD GOMPERS' APPROVAL.

Timber Workers' Strike in the State of Washington This Month.

Chicago, July 26.—The defense in the I. W. W. trial to-day placed W. E. Fall, vice-president of the timber workers' union, affiliated with the American Federation of Labor, on the witness stand. He testified that the strike in the state of Washington, July 16 last, had the approval of Samuel Gompers, president of the federation, and was solely to improve working conditions.

UKRAINE ARMY DRIVES GERMANS

They Represent Peasant Rebellion in Southwest-ern Russia

PART OF GERMANS RETREAT TO KIEV

Peasants Are Well Armed and Are Fairly Efficient Troops

London, July 26.—A peasant rebellion has broken out in the Ukraine on a formidable scale, according to information received to-day. Seventy-five thousand peasants, fairly efficient troops with their officers and their instructors, are advancing against the Germans, detachments of whom have withdrawn, retreating to Kiev. The peasants are well armed.

AMERICAN DEATH RATE IS EIGHT PER THOUSAND

Percentage in Fighting Prior to the Present Battle Has Been Remarkably Low.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Satisfactory progress is being made by the American troops assisting the French and British in pushing in the German lines on the Soissons-Rheims salient, members of the House military committee were told to-day by Secretary Baker and General March, chief of staff.

The transportation facilities of the expeditionary army are fully meeting the strain placed upon them in keeping the moving troops supplied and in bringing up heavy guns and ammunition. The representatives were told.

While without information as to casualties in the present battle, Secretary Baker said the percentage of men killed in previous fighting had been remarkably low. Figures furnished the committee members showed that the death rate in battle has been eight per thousand, while there was exactly the same proportion of deaths from diseases among the expeditionary forces.

The officials said this was the lowest death rate among troops at war in the history of the world. Members of the committee inquired as to losses by the Germans in killed since the present battle started, but General March said he had no information on that subject, adding that the American forces were too busy pressing their offensive to even attempt to count the German dead.

GREATLY IMPRESSED.

Assistant Secretary Roosevelt Likes Naval Plans in England.

Queenstown, Wednesday, July 24.—After an inspection of the allied destroyer base with Sir Eric Geddes, first lord of the admiralty, Franklin D. Roosevelt, assistant secretary of the American navy department, stated to the Associated Press correspondent that he had been greatly impressed with the putting together of the British and American units into an efficient anti-submarine operating force without either losing any of its identity.

The members of the party were guests at luncheon of the American fleet commander and then saw American blue-jackets fitting out several giant seaplanes, watched torpedo overhauling, went over the extensive athletic grounds and viewed other activities at the base.

The party left early in the evening. Mr. Roosevelt said he believed the day's inspection was worth more than many days spent around the conference table.

FOURTEEN MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ACROSS

They Will Join Assistant Secretary of the Navy Roosevelt in Inspection of American Naval Strength in European Waters.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Safe arrival in England of 14 members of the House naval committee, headed by Chairman Padgett of Tennessee, was to-day announced by the navy department. They will meet Assistant Secretary of the Navy Franklin D. Roosevelt, who is now abroad, and inspect American naval vessels and stations.

OUT OF GAME FOR WEEKS.

Rawlings of Boston Braves Had His Nose Broken.

Boston, July 26.—"Johnny" Rawlings, the regular shortstop of the Boston National league baseball team, will be out of the game for several weeks as the result of a fractured nose sustained yesterday while trying to field a fast grounder. The loss of Rawlings is a severe one for the team, officials said to-day. They were undecided who would take his place.

WOMAN DISTRICT ATTORNEY.

Mrs. Annette Abbott Adams Assumes the Position in California.

San Francisco, Cal., July 26.—Mrs. Annette Abbott Adams to-day assumed the duties of United States district attorney under temporary appointment by Federal Judge William C. Van Fleet. She is the first woman to hold a federal office of that kind.

CORP. WALTER JORDAN HERO OF RECENT FEAT

Danville Man Reported Killed in Action Was the Man Who Captured a German Machine Gun Alone and Brought It Back.

St. Johnsbury, July 26.—Corporal Walter Jordan of the 102d machine gun battalion, reported to-day as killed in action on July 14, is the Danville man who a short time ago captured a machine gun from the enemy and brought it back to the American trenches. He went out with other members of his company, but brought the gun back alone.

A telegram was received from the war department last night by Corporal Jordan's former employer, John A. Gagnon, of Danville, announcing Corporal Jordan's death. Corporal Jordan was 40 years of age and enlisted last June in Co. D of St. Johnsbury, going with the company to Fort Ethan Allen and later to Camp Devens. He went across last fall. His only relatives reside in England, in which country he was born. As a boy of 13 he came to Canada and lived there some time, after which he came to Danville and worked as a farm hand.

CASH BASIS AUG. 1.

Railroad Freight Offices Will Go on That Basis.

A statement was made by railroad men at Montpelier this afternoon that no consolidation of the service on the Central Vermont and Montpelier & Wells River railroad, affecting Barre and Montpelier, will be made until the people of the two cities have been given a chance for a hearing.

Another statement was made that the freight offices will go on a cash basis on Aug. 1.

NEW ENGLAND SPRUCE \$4 HIGHER TO-DAY

Increased Price Allowed By War Industries Board Until Nov. 1, 1918.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Increases averaging approximately \$4 a thousand feet for New England spruce lumber were authorized to-day by the price fixing committee of the war industries board for the period from July 19 to Nov. 1, 1918.

The prices apply to the American government, the allies, railroads, and others customarily purchasing lumber for military use, either by rail or water. They range from \$38 to \$60 a thousand feet, according to size, length and finish.

JAPAN ACCEPTS AMERICAN PLAN

Official Announcement Made in London That Countries Are in Accord in Proposal to Assist Czech-Slovak Armies in Siberia.

London, July 26.—It is announced officially here that Japan has decided to accept the American proposal to assist the Czech-Slovak armies in Siberia.

WASHINGTON STILL SILENT.

Will Not Make Statement Regarding the Plans with Japan.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—News that an official announcement had been made in London that Japan had decided to accept the proposal of the United States to give military assistance to the Czech-Slovak armies in Siberia did not alter the course of the government here in still making no statement on the status of the negotiations.

On the other hand, various published accounts of the negotiations were denounced as speculative and as possibly giving information to the enemy.

President Wilson's statement making formal announcement on the subject has been drafted but will not be issued until all the details have been closed up.

TWO AVIATORS KILLED AT BUFFALO

Lawrence J. Dunham of Brockville, Ont., and James Doolittle of San Francisco, Victims of Fall.

Buffalo, N. Y., July 26.—Lawrence J. Dunham of Brockville, Ont., an aviator, was killed by the fall of an airplane at the Curtiss field here to-day. James Doolittle of San Francisco died an hour later in a hospital.

40 MORE GERMAN DIVISIONS READY

For Operation Calculated to Change the Present Situation to the Advantage of Crown Prince.

Paris, July 26.—General Ludendorff apparently has 40 divisions of shock troops still in hand, says Marcel Hutin in the Echo de Paris. They are destined, or at least part of them, for an operation calculated to change the present situation to the advantage of the German crown prince, but, adds M. Hutin, it is hardly likely that General Foch and General Petain will let the initiative be taken from them now.

Between July 15 and yesterday 48 German divisions were identified in the Marne pocket, says M. Hutin, and completely exhausted divisions are being replaced by half rested ones.

VOLUNTARY WAGE INCREASE

Of Ten to Twenty-Five Per Cent for New York Trolleyman.

New York, July 26.—The Brooklyn Rapid Transit company to-day announced a voluntary increase of wages to its employees, amounting to approximately \$1, 100,000 annually. The increases range from 10 to 25 per cent.

WESTERN UNION INDICTED.

On Charge of Transmitting Messages By Mail.

New York, July 26.—The Western Union Telegraph company was indicted by a federal grand jury here to-day on charges of having transmitted messages by mail.

ABOUT 360,000 MEN IN AUGUST

U. S. Government Will Take Practically the Same as in July

WHOLE OF CLASS 1 MUST BE READY

Medical Advisory Boards Urged to Speed Up Examinations

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Local draft boards have been instructed by Provost Marshal General Crowder to refuse the release of registrants in class 1 for enlistment in the navy, marine corps or the emergency fleet, until it has been determined that there will be a sufficient number of such registrants physically qualified for general military service to fill promptly all August calls. State adjutants general have been notified that the August requisitions will be approximately equal to those of July, when 367,961 registrants were called to the colors.

Medical advisory boards also have been urged to speed up the physical examination of registrants in order to have all men of class 1 ready for call in August.

EXPECTS 400,000 MEN FROM RECENT DRAFT

Government Notices State Draft Executives That More Than 50 Per Cent of 1918 Registrations Are Expected to Be Placed in Class 1.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Provost Marshal General Crowder to-day informed state draft executives that more than 50 per cent of the 749,500 registrants in the 1918 class are expected to be placed in class 1 as physically qualified for general military service and instructed them to give "special scrutiny" to the report of any local board which fails to classify this percentage.

This estimate, General Crowder said, is based upon a study of the operation of the draft and the only exceptions which will be recognized are in the case of communities having a large alien population, or which have released large numbers of the 1918 class to the navy, marine corps or emergency fleet.

"The national average should be much higher than 50 per cent because industrial, agricultural and dependency deferments and physical rejections should be much lower," General Crowder's message said.

SUGAR RATION CUT.

American Public Is to Have Only Two Pounds Per Capita Per Month.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—The American public was asked by the food administration yesterday to go on a sugar ration of two pounds per capita monthly beginning Aug. 1, to meet a world shortage in this commodity and to care for the immediate demands of the allies and American military forces. The American public at present is on a three-pound per capita ration monthly, under a request issued by the food administration a month ago.

Household rationing will be voluntary as at present, but public eating places will be required to observe new regulations effective Aug. 1, permitting the use of two pounds of sugar for every 90 meals served, instead of three pounds, under existing regulations.

ADMITS CORRESPONDENCE.

But Says His Letters to Germany Were of Innocent Nature.

New York, July 26.—Admission that he sent mail to Germany through secret channels for nearly a year after the United States entered the war has been made by George Sylvester Viereck, editor of Viereck's Weekly, formerly The Vaterland, according to a statement to-day by Merton E. Lewis, attorney general of New York. Viereck claimed the letters were innocent communications to his father in Berlin. He conceded he had burned the originals here.

MOSTLY CANADIANS

Who Are Applying for American Citizenship at St. Albans.

St. Albans, July 26.—A special session of the U. S. district court is being held at the county courthouse by Clerk F. S. Platt of Rutland, assisted by Marshal A. P. Carpenter of Brattleboro and C. DeF. Bancroft of Montpelier, as intermediary. Up to 12:30 this afternoon six applications for citizenship had been received, all being from Canadian citizens; and a dozen applications for second papers were received.

COST IS JUSTIFIED.

All That the United States Is Putting into the Battle.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—Secretary Baker has so far received no word of the American losses in the present fighting, he announced last night. "There is no doubt that he construes General Pershing's silence on this point as meaning that the cost has not been greater than the numbers engaged or the effort made would justify."

German press reports of tens of thousands of American dead before their lines are put out as a sop to the German people, it is believed.

DROWNED AT SEA.

Henry B. Valpey of Everett, Mass., the Victim.

Washington, D. C., July 26.—The navy department to-day announced the death by drowning of Henry B. Valpey, Everett, Mass., at sea, July 21.

21 PERSONS INDICTED

On Charge of Theft of Beef Consigned to U. S. Army.

New York, July 26.—Twenty-one persons were indicted here to-day by the federal grand jury on a charge of being implicated in the theft of beef consigned to the United States army.